MINUTES
Working Group 1: EU Production

Wednesday 17 May 2017
10:00h – 13:00h

Martin's Brussels EU
Boulevard Charlemagne 90, B-1000, Brussels

- **Welcome by the Chair and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair, Mr Sean O'Donoghue, welcomed those present (Annex I) and the agenda was adopted with no further comments.

- **Adoption of minutes of the last Working Group 1 (18.01.2017)**

The minutes were adopted with no further comments.

- **Action Points last meeting**

The Chair gave an overview of the Action Points discussed during the meeting of the Working Group 1 which took place in January 2017. These are the following:

1. Common Markets Organisation and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020);
2. Evaluation of first sale trends;
3. Impact of recovery plans on markets;
4. No-commercialization of undersized fish/juveniles in the context of new technical measures regulation and discard ban implementation;
5. Promotion and competitiveness of products.

Regarding Action 5, the Chair requested the EC to provide a presentation on the economic assessment of the fleet.

- **Common Markets Organisation & EMFF:**

- **Interim Assessment PMPs (EC)**
  Presentation in Annex II

The representative from the EC briefed attendees on the Interim Assessment on PMPs presented already in the Expert Group that took place on the 22.02.2017. This assessment was made at the initiative of the EC after having some indications that the implementation of the PMPs is not as smooth as expected. The POs were in a difficult situation due to the late adoption of the EMFF and the consequently delays, encountering difficulties in implementing these measures which are mandatory from 2014.

VisNed stated that, when the CMO was agreed, the EC had the intention to enhance the power of POs but clearly some Member States are not willing to do so: the result is an uneven playing field. He criticized the cautious

approach the EC is playing in this regard. He proposed the MAC to take the initiative and organise a meeting bringing together MS in order to come up with best practices to avoid these two very different approaches from MS.

FEAP stated that it also affects aquaculture producers and requested this proposed meeting to address them as well.

Visfederatie pointed out the non-financial measures POs can take, such as plan the supply over the year and the minimum price a PO sets, for which there is a lack of information and transparency in many cases about what POs are actually doing, situation which fosters competition problems. Therefore he proposes the meeting aforementioned to address these measures as well. These plans being financed by public money, he found it strange that this information is not publicly available.

The Chair (KFO) replied that those non-financial measures are mandatory provisions related to marketing. From the Interim Assessment, all PMP included the non-financial measures mentioned. The plans are not for public consumption but certain aspects of it could indeed be made public.

The EC stated that indeed, once the plans are approved, they become mandatory but they are not public documents and they should not be publicly available. It is a strategic document between POs and their national organisations in exchange of which the national administration grants the plans. Regarding the meeting proposed by VisNed, the EC will not organise it but will be happy to participate.

- **WG1 recommendations Interim Assessment**

The Chair put together a set of recommendations regarding the PMPs:

1. The organisation of the event proposed by VisNed aiming at putting forward a common template of PMPs.

2. The relevant marketing information laid down on PMPs available to the value chain.

3. To reach a common understanding during the event proposed on what will be funded, as EC explained during the presentation that legal uncertainties on eligibility of expenditures make MS hesitant to put money on the table.

- **Funding EMFF & DG AGRI**

The EC gave an overview of the Info Day on the funds available in DG AGRI for the promotion policy of fishery and aquaculture products. These funds are addressed to promote European products. The most successful projects are those grouping different products by national associations or public bodies.

- **EC presentation on the Expert Group on Trade and Markets 22.02.2017**

The EC explained that the Expert Group on Trade and Markets was set up by the EC, who sets up the agenda, in order to have the opportunity to sit with MS and sector organisations to discuss with them about issues for which the EC needs consultation.

The EC stated that there is no overlapping between the MAC and the Expert Group: even though some topics are the same, the attendees and purposes are different. The Expert Group is mainly addressed to MS. The Expert Group has been convened 2 times over the past three years.

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The Chair opined the role of both bodies is still confusing since the Expert Group gathers expert stakeholders, when MAC is conceived to be the body of expert stakeholders. The Chair wondered whether opinions and views expressed in the Expert Group and MAC will carry the same weight.

CEP representative stressed that the MAC represents the value chain, and therefore is more representative than the Expert Group. EC, MAC and MS should all work towards the same objectives. The CEP representative hoped the situation evolves in a converged way.

The EC agreed with the special configuration of the MAC representing the whole value chain as well as NGOs and civil society but stressed that in the Expert Group, the EC is the one deciding on the agenda and that the Expert Group is not a stable forum for discussion.

The Chair suggested the EC to relook at the Expert Group and its going forward, as the way to address all stakeholders should be done via the MAC.

- **EUMOFA**

  - **Views WG1 on reports/outputs EU Production**

The EC explained in short the progress of the work plan for 2017 regarding EUMOFA. Concerning the production, the EC has planned for the first time a meeting with MS to see how to improve the data coverage on production, particularly in countries for which MS are not covered. Another issue to be tackled in this meeting is the collection of specific needs and priorities of MS on market analysis.

Visfederatie welcomed the idea of looking at the data coverage since, if data is not available, the sector is forced do make estimations. A common database and set of common figures is needed.

CEP stated that EUMOFA was designed to give fishermen objective data and information almost in real time, thought this has not been achieved so far and he found it questionable whether this objective is achievable. EUMOFA works more as a record of data. This data has to be consistent internally and within MS so that EUMOFA can work as a real reliable tool. As Chair of the WG2, he stated that the WG would like to explore what are the information flows and how to improve the quality of the information that is gathered under EUMOFA.

The Chair confirmed that EUMOFA is not utilised by the catching sector as they do not see it as a useful tool in real time, but rather a useful way of getting analytics and historical data and reports. He agreed with CEP that quality of data has to be looked at.

Good Fish Foundation wondered whether the fact that pelagic and demersal sectors are not using EUMOFA could be due to a lack of information on what EUMOFA can offer. She stressed the importance that the tool has for consumers.

The Chair, speaking on behalf of the catching side (both demersal and pelagic) informed that they are aware of what EUMOFA can offer, but this tool is not in the position of providing them with real time information. He agreed with Good Fish Foundation on the need to better inform on what EUMOFA can offer.

The EC informed that the second part of the meeting in Rome, in the beginning of June, will be precisely dedicated to communication: make the website user friendly and make the information easy to find. The meeting will also address trainings on how to use the tool. On providing information in real time via EUMOFA, it is impossible and it is

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not the intention of EUMOFA, which is rather to provide data on a weekly basis. The EC is working on quality of data and the data methodology will be revised.

The Chair asked EC whether it would be possible to, on the one hand, speed up the receiving of the annual report, since the 2016 report is not out yet; and on the other hand, regarding the spreadsheets behind EUMOFA, to improve their user-friendliness. Regarding the competitiveness of the fleet, which is an item on WG1 work programme for which the WG will be using the JRC data available on economic evaluation of the fleet, the Chair wondered whether there is a linkage with EUMOFA.

On the report, the EC stated that unfortunately it will come up later in the year due to certain collaboration with Eurostat that takes time. Concerning the spreadsheets and the website, the IT team is already working on the user-friendliness of the data base. As for the linkage with EUMOFA, the EC stressed that the data used on the report on the competitiveness of the fleet is provided STEFC, while EUMOFA works with data from Eurostat.

- **Interaction other WGs**

The Chair of WG2 stated that WG2 can contribute in terms of suggestions for improving the quality of data. This issue could also be of interest of WG3. In order to avoid duplication of discussions, it is important to align all WGs and organise properly the discussions.

The Chair expressed he would like to have a presentation from EC during the next WG1 meeting on the reports they produce and how to make the most out of them.

- **Brexit: WG1 perspective**

The Chair invited members to express their opinion on a possible involvement of the MAC in Brexit from the perspective of WG1.

ARVI-OPPC-3 considered that being the MAC, a forum that advises EC at their request, it should not take any action regarding Brexit negotiations.

OPP Lugo supported the previous speaker.

The Chair informed members that the PELAGIC AC, NWWAC and NSAC are already considering the organisation of the AC and its members for after a Brexit scenario. The MAC should also consider the situation of the UK colleagues for this after Brexit situation.

Visfederatie noted that this is a very difficult discussion but later on, if needed, the MAC could have a role.

- **AOB**

Summary of action points:

1. Organisation of the workshop on PMOs, with help from EC. The earliest realistic date would be September and both MS and relevant stakeholders will be invited.

2. Recommendations to pass on to the EC:

   - The abovementioned workshop;

- The transparency and availability of the PMPs;
- Clarification on funding.

These will be adopted by written procedure.

3. EUMOFA: both Chairs (WG1 and WG2) will liaise regarding the appropriateness and get a presentation on how to utilise EUMOFA to its maximum capability.

4. Expert Group on Markets and Trade Issues: the MAC will communicate the EC its views regarding this body.

5. Brexit: the WG1 will not get involved in negotiations but the MAC will look at the post Brexit situation and the organisation of the AC.

End of the meeting

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ANNEX I
Attendees

Member	Representative
CEP	Andrew Kuyk
AIPCE	Marco Baldoli
ANCIT	Giorgio Rimoldi
ARVI-OPPC3	Purificación Fernández Álvarez
CONXEMAR	Marta Llopis Katarina Sipic
COPA-COGECA	Marina Predic
Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation	Lise Laustsen
Danish Society for a Living Sea	Erik Bjørn Olsen
EMPA	Karine Berger
EuFishMeal	Jonas Sørensen
FEAP	Arnault Chaperon
FEDEPESCA	Maria Luisa Alvarez
Federación Provincial cofradías de pescadores de Lugo	Carmen Abad
Good Fish Foundation	Christine Absil
WFF	Eszter Hidas
LIFE	Brian O'Riordan
OPEGUI	Miren Garmendia
Org. de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OPP-7-LUGO)	José Manuel F. Beltrán
Puerto de Celeiro S.A. -OPP77	Eduardo Míguez López
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation	Paul Macdonald
SEAFISH	Cristina Fernandez
The Fish Producer Organisation	Jane Sandell
VisFederatie	Guus Pastoor Anne-Marie Kats
VisNed	Pim Visser
Observers	
Isabelle Thomas's Office (MEP on Fisheries Committee)	Alexandre Questel
Latvia Permanent Representative	Atis Rektins
Spain- Secretaría General de Pesca	Francisco de Borja Carmona
Spain MAPAMA	Carmen Rodriguez

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Others	
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